

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2004-246

November 17, 2004

U.S. CELLULAR
Request for Designation as Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier

BRIEFING ORDER

As presented in a letter filed by U.S. Cellular on November 12, 2004, the parties agreed to a briefing schedule. Briefs shall be filed as stated in the letter:

November 22, 2004	Telephone Association of Maine
December 6, 2004	U.S. Cellular and Public Advocate

The letter also stated:

Assuming the Bench (a) believes that U.S. Cellular has made a prima facie case, and (b) does not require full briefing on every conceivable issue in this case, the parties request that the Examiner now set the following schedule for the balance of the case... .

The advisors to the Commission have no belief about either of the matters stated in the quotation. There has been no procedural vehicle that would allow the advisors (or the Commission) to rule on the first matter. It is up to the parties to decide which issues are important to brief and which are not. Notwithstanding the fact that neither "assumption" is established, the Examiner will establish the requested briefing schedule. If, because of the development of certain issues, a party believes that additional time for briefing (or an additional round) is necessary, the advisors will consider any reasonable request.

The advisors will not, at this time, establish a schedule for an Examiner's Report (or even decide whether an Examiner's Report is necessary) or deliberations because the development of issues through briefing may have an influence on the timing of the remaining schedule.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 17th day of November, 2004.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

Peter Ballou